

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-13 remain in the application.

In item 3 on pages 2-4 of the Office action, claims 1 and 8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Gierut (US Pat. No. 6,122,161) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a first printed circuit board having first defined dimensions corresponding to a first standard, and having a first portion of a plug connector, said first printed circuit board extending in a given plane, said first printed circuit board being a main board of a data processing device and including a CPU, memory components and slots. (Emphasis added.)

Claim 8 calls for, inter alia:

a first printed circuit board having dimensions corresponding to a first dimension standard, said first

printed circuit board substantially extending in a given plane, said first printed circuit board being a main board of a data processing device and including a CPU, memory components and slots. (Emphasis added.)

Gierut discloses a circuit board assembly which is assembled from individual modules (subassemblies) and the modules have different functions. Gierut teaches dividing the functionality of a large circuit board into small subassemblies which have partial functions and permitting a targeted trouble shooting of errors (see column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 7).

However, the shifting of individual function blocks to an individual module, for example to the module 2 as described in column 3, lines 52-65 of Gierut, would not produce a module 2 with the function of a main board. When the module 2 has a processor and a memory, then the vacated module 1 may have a coprocessor which is normally located on the main board, in order to improve the overall performance of the circuit board assembly (see column 3, lines 52-65 of Gierut).

Clearly, Gierut does not disclose arranging all of the necessary components for the function of the circuit board assembly on the module 2 which would contradict the teaching of Gierut to divide the functionality of the assembly into the individual subassemblies.

Even when the individual units are connected in a plane and have a similar functionality to a main board, it is not suggested that one of the units be used as a main board. Rather, the other units supplement the functionality of the main board. In addition, in contrast to the invention of the instant application, all of the units have sensitive electronic components and the slots on the individual units are not disclosed.

The circuit board assembly itself does not necessarily have standard dimensions because it is applied vertically on a back plane and the back plane adds the circuit board assembly to an overall functionality of a computer system.

Clearly, Gierut does not show "a first printed circuit board having first defined dimensions corresponding to a first standard, and having a first portion of a plug connector, said first printed circuit board extending in a given plane, said first printed circuit board being a main board of a data processing device and including a CPU, memory components and slots", as recited in claim 1, and "a first printed circuit board having dimensions corresponding to a first dimension standard, said first printed circuit board substantially extending in a given plane, said first printed circuit board

being a main board of a data processing device and including a CPU, memory components and slots", as recited in claim 8 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 8. Claims 1 and 8 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art.

In item 5 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 3-7 and 9-13 have been rejected as being obvious over Gierut in view of Leman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,046,912) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As discussed above, claims 1 and 8 are believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 3-7 and 9-13 are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 8, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-13 are solicited.

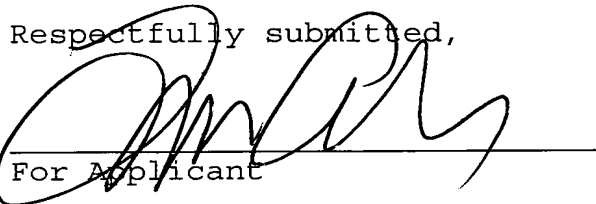
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

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Amdt. Dated September 25, 2003
Reply to Office action of June 26, 2003

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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